

Message Text

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64
ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

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R 162241 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, US, CU, BL, GT, PA

SUBJECT: OASGA - CONSULTATIONS ON CUBA

REFS: (A) STATE 43380, (B) STATE 684, (C) GUATEMALA 1204

1. U. S. PERM MISSION TO OAS HAS BEEN PROVIDING COPIES OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTERS RE CUBA (STATE 43380) TO SELECTED OAS AMBASSADORS IN CONNECTION WITH PROCESS OF CONSULTATION THIS SUBJECT.

2. WE WERE CONCERNED AT SURPRISINGLY SOFTENED ATTITUDE OF
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GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR CASTILLO ARRIOLA (STATE 684) AND YESTERDAY HAD LUNCHTIME CONVERSATION WITH HIM TOGETHER WITH HARDLINE BOLIVIAN AND PARAGUAYAN AMBASSADORS. CASTILLO COMMENCED SESSION BY TELLING US THAT (1) CUBAN AGGRESSION HAD DIMINISHED AND CASTRO'S PRESTIGE NOW SO LOW AS NOT TO BE A THREAT, (2) ERA OF IDEOLOGICAL PLURALISM WAS AT HAND NOT ONLY IN WORLD BUT ALSO IN REGION, (3) FEARED U. S. MIGHT SURPRISE LATIN AMERICA WITH UNILATERAL ACTION RE CUBA AND (4) INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM AND RIO TREATY BEING WEAKENED BY DEFLECTIONS AND IT WAS BETTER TO REGULARIZE SITUATION, PERMITTING COUNTRIES WHO WISHED TO HAVE RELATIONS WITH CUBA TO DO SO " LEGALLY". HE AFFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT GUATEMALA FOR ITS PART WOULD NOT RENEW RELATIONS. CASTILLO, HOWEVER, WAS IMPRESSED BY SECRETARY'S LETTER GIVING ASSURANCES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN U. S. POLICY AND JOVA'S RE-ITERATION OF FIRM STANCE U. S. WOULD MAINTAIN AT OASGA.

BOLIVIAN AND PARAGUAYAN REPS GAVE APPROPRIATE AND FULL SUPPORT. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH CASTILLO REPLYING AFFIRMATIVELY TO DIRECT QUESTION FROM JOVA THAT GUATEMALAN DELEGATION WOULD, AS IN CASE OF LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MAINTAIN UNITED FRONT WITH THOSE OF US OPPOSING CHANGE RE CUBA UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WE HAD INTERPRETED CASTILLO'S EARLIER SOFTNESS AS PERSONAL, WE WERE CONCERNED TO FIND THAT IT SEEMS TO BE SHARED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ARENALES AS DESCRIBED IN GUATEMALA'S 1204. WHILE WE BELIEVE WE HAVE STRENGTHENED CASTILLO'S STANCE, POSITION OF GUATEMALAN DELEGATION AT ASSEMBLY MAY WELL EVOLVE ALONG LINES SKETCHED BY ARENALES. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARLY TRUE IF VENEZUELA TAKES LEAD ON CUBAN QUESTION, NOT ONLY FOR HISTORICAL REASON THAT PRESENT SANCTIONS WERE IMPOSED AT INITIATIVE OF VENEZUELA BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF CLOSE STRONG WORKING RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN VENEZUELAN AND GUATEMALAN DELEGATIONS HERE WHICH MUTUALLY SUPPORT EACH OTHER ON BELIZE/ GUYANA QUESTIONS. ROGER

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CARACAS
GUATEMALA
LA PAZ
MANAGUA
MULTIPLE
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SAN SALVADOR
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